

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, JA

SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE LOCKHEED AFFAIR, FEB. 16 AND 17

1. DIET TESTIMONY: MAIN LOCKHEED MEDIA PLAY OF FEB. 16 WAS LIVE TV, RADIO COVERAGE OF FIRST SWORN DIET TESTIMONY IN 11 YEARS. FIVE OF TOKYO'S SEVEN TV STATIONS BROADCAST OPENING OF SESSION WITH NHK COVERING FOR ENTIRE DAY. NHK REPORTS TOKYO VIEWER RATE OF ABOUT 20 PERCENT AS SEVERAL MILLIONS HIGHER THAN USUAL 2.4 PERCENT RATING FOR COVERAGE OF NORMAL DIET SESSION. ALL TOKYO AM PAPERS OF FEB. 16 FRONTPAGED BACKGROUND OF DIET TESTIMONY WITHOUT BEING ABLE ADD ANYTHING NEW.

2. PARTY INVESTIGATION GROUPS RETURN: MOST PAPERS FRONTPAGED RETURN FROM US OF LDP, JSP AND JCP INVESTIGATION GROUPS FROM U.S. AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE BUNSEI SATO (LDP) REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR SENDING OF SECOND LDP GROUP TO US AT END OF FEB TO DIG FURTHER INTO INVOLVEMENT OF GOJ OFFICIALS IN LOCKHEED PAYOFFS, TO TRY TO OVERCOME RELUCTANCE OF CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE AND USG TO RELEASE EVIDENCE OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT, AND TO COVER UPCOMING SEC INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED. JSP AND JCP AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE SPOKESMEN ALSO STRESSED CONVICTION THAT IMPORT INCRIMINATING INFO HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED. JSP'S KAWASAKI TOLD REPORTERS JSP WOULD PRESS GOJ IN DIET TO MAKE STRONG REQUEST FOR MORE INFO FROM SUB-COMMITTEE.

3. OSANO TESTIMONY: FEB. 16 EVENING PAPERS ALL HEADLINED
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OSANO'S CONSISTENT DENIALS IN TESTIMONY OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN

LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. OSANO MADE NO DAMAGING REVELATIONS.

4. ANA TESTIMONY: FEB. 17 AM PRESS FRONTPAGE COVERAGE
ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON FEB. 16 TESTIMONY OF TOKIJI WAKASA, PRESIDENT
OF ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS, AND NAOJI WATANABE, ANA VICE PRESIDENT.
ALL PAPERS REPORT THEIR STONEWALL DENIALS OF BRIBE INVOLVEMENT
OR PRESSURE FROM KODAMA, GOVERNMENT TO SELECT AIRBUS. FRONTPAGE
ARTICLES DID HOWEVER PICK UP WAKASA MENTION THAT DC-10, WHICH
WAS UNDER STUDY ALONG WITH TRISTAR, HAD BEEN OPTIONED BY
ANA PRIOR TO TRISTAR SELECTION. FRONTPAGE PIECES NOTE DISCREPANCIES
BETWEEN ANA TESTIMONY AND THAT OF LOCKHEED'S KOTCHIAN.
ALL PAPERS' INSIDE PAGES CARRY EITHER EXERPTS OR FULL TEXTS OF FEB.16
TESTIMONY. VIRTUALLY NO EDITORIAL MENTION OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR
ON EITHER FEB. 16 OR 17.

5. GOVERNMENT PLANS: FEB. 17 TOKYO SHIMBUN AND NHK NEWS REPORT
PM MIKI CALLING MEETING OF CONCERNED MINISTERS AND AGENCY HEADS
TO MAP OUT GOJ PLAN FOR DEALING WITH LOCKHEED AFFAIR ON FEB 17.
NHK REPORTED THE MEETING DISCUSSED HOW BEST TO GET USG TO RELEASE INFO.

VICE PM FUKUDA WAS SAID TO HAVE STRESSED NECESSITY OF SENDING
PARTY-WIDE, NON-FACTIONAL INVESTIGATION GROUP TO U.S.

6. FEB. 17 EVENING PAPAERS REPORT PM MIKI SCHEDULING PRESS
CONFERENCE ON LOCKHEED FOR FEB. 19.
HODGSON

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